



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Tom Perez

For Immediate Release

October 28, 2003

Contact: Dan Parr 240-777-7954

**Statement by
County Councilmember Tom Perez**

"One Step Forward and One Step Backward"

"Today, the Council took an important step forward and a regrettable step backward in the battle against gridlock in our school hallways and our highways.

"The good news is that the Council for the first time enacted an Impact Tax on new residential development to address our school overcrowding needs. This measure is long overdue, and I am pleased to have sponsored the original bill that will allow us to address chronic overcrowding in our schools.

"I am equally pleased that the Council has raised the Transportation Impact Fee that will enable us to generate new resources to address the stifling gridlock that is choking our quality of life.

"However, the Council majority took a major step backward in the battle against gridlock by passing an Annual Growth Policy premised on the flawed belief that speeding up the pace of new development will reduce school overcrowding and alleviate traffic congestion.

"I fail to understand how speeding up growth will help us climb out of the very deep hole in which we find ourselves. The Council today adopted a modified version of the failed Pay-and-Go experiment of the late 1990s. This new 'Pay-More-Go-Faster' approach violates the Hippocratic Oath of public policy; it will do substantial harm to our effort to end gridlock."

###

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**